





## MC&FP FACT SHEET

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month

#### Reporting Options

*Victims have two reporting options:*

-  **Unrestricted:** *those who want to pursue an official investigation report through the service member's command, FAP or local law enforcement*
-  **Restricted:** *those who do not want an official investigation but do want victim advocacy services, medical care and/or counseling should make a restricted report to a FAP victim advocate, clinician or supervisor, or a military health care provider*

#### Additional Information

- **Military OneSource**  
[www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)
- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

#### Background

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is observed each October to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide an opportunity to highlight the available services and resources within the Department of Defense (DoD). The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is DoD's lead agency in addressing domestic violence in the military. Individuals and family members can look to FAP for abuse prevention programs and services, training on early identification and intervention, victim support and treatment for offenders. This year's DVAM campaign will focus on the many FAP services that promote healthy relationships, as well as spotlight the key role of victim advocates.

#### Highlights

- FAP offers relationship support to service members, military spouses or partners, and military children that promotes healthy communication and effective skills needed during the different stages in individual and family relationships.
- FAP resources can help individuals develop strong relationship skills to meet the challenges and responsibilities of the sometimes complex relationships between spouses or partners, and parents and children.
- Each member of a community can help promote a safe environment that encourages healthy relationships and healthy families.
- Victim advocates play a key role in intervening and protecting victims of domestic abuse by offering critical information and referrals, safety planning, and accompaniment and support.

